



HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Statement of Chairman Michael McCaul (R-TX) Full Committee

*"Markup of H.R. 4176, H.R. 4227, H.R. 4467, H.R. 5074, H.R. 5079, H.R. 5081, H.R. 5089, H.R. 5094,
H.R. 5099, H.R. 5131"*

March 7, 2018

Remarks as Prepared

This morning our Committee will markup 10 important pieces of legislation to strengthen the security of our homeland in several key areas.

When Americans pick up the paper or turn on the news, they are constantly reminded of the many dangers that confront our country. They come from Islamist terrorists, radicalized individuals here at home, nation states engaged in cyberwarfare, and many other nefarious actors.

As these threats become more lethal and varied, we must exhaust all efforts to stay one step ahead.

Over the last few years we have seen terrorists shift their tactics to kill innocent people in the West. Cities across Europe – London, Stockholm, Barcelona, Nice, and Berlin have all been the location of attacks by vehicular homicide. Unfortunately, these attacks have not just been relegated to foreign cities.

Last October, eight people were killed in New York City after a terrorist drove a pickup truck along a crowded bike path. Less than two months later, another terrorist set off a pipe bomb by the Port Authority bus terminal. Jihadists are clearly answering Sheikh Adnani's call to kill by any means necessary wherever they are.

The threats to our homeland do not end there, however. We know from the airplane bombing in Sharm El Sheikh in 2015 and the sophisticated plot to take down an airplane in Australia, that our aviation sector still remains their crown jewel of targets.

We also know that nation states engaging in cyberwarfare are constantly hacking away at our critical infrastructure including our electoral process. Russian attacks during the election of 2016 were meant to create division among the American people.

We cannot allow any adversary to undermine our democratic institutions. If we allow a foreign government to sow discord in America, we are letting them achieve their goal. Foreign interference in our elections must never be tolerated.

We must do more to protect ourselves from these invisible attacks. Fortunately, we are taking action on all of these fronts.

Today, the bipartisan legislation that our Committee will consider will help strengthen our aviation and cargo security, protect the public from vehicular terrorism, and bolster our ability to respond to dangerous cyberattacks.

These bills will also take important steps to better secure our surface transportation systems and enhance the capabilities of our fusion centers.

This Committee has set a high bar for others to follow. Currently, we have 68 bills sitting in the Senate and 6 public laws. I am very pleased to report that our Senate counterpart committee is marking up our DHS reauthorization bill as we speak.

I am also hopeful they will begin to consider more of our legislation at future markups.

I'd like to thank everyone who has worked hard on the bills we are considering today and I look forward to working with each of you as we fight to keep our homeland safe.

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